

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 BISSAU 00697 121121Z  
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01  
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15  
ICA-11 ARA-10 IO-13 ACDA-12 /111 W  
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R 120934Z JUN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY BISSAU  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1241  
INFO AMEMBASSY DAKAR POUCH  
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY PRAIA POUCH

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PEPR, PU, CV  
SUBJECT: GUINEA-BISSAU AND CAPE VERDE: VIEWS ON CURRENT  
AFRICAN DEVELOPMENTS

REF: BISSAU 654

1. FOLLOWING RECENT MEETING OF PERMANENT COMMISSION OF  
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF THE STRUGGLE (CEL) OF GUINEA-BISSAU  
AND CAPE VERDE'S RULING PARTY, GUINEA-BISSAU PRIME  
MINISTER FRANCISCO ENDES OUTLINED PARTY LEADERSHIP'S  
VIEWS ON SEVERAL CURRENT AFRICAN ISSUES, NOTABLY  
THE RECENT SHABA INVASION AND THE PROPOSAL FOR AN AFRICAN  
PEACE KEEPING FORCE. MENDES' STATEMENTS TO GOVERNMENT  
ORGANIZED PRESS CONFERENCE WERE CAREFULLY NEUTRAL  
ABOUT PEACE KEEPING FORCE PROPOSAL AND FIRMLY SUPPORTIVE  
OF GOVERNMENT OF ZAIRE'S RIGHT TO CALL IN HELP FROM  
ANYWHERE TO DEAL WITH ANY THREAT.

2. AFTER RESTATING SUPPORT FOR NON-ALIGNMENT AND  
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PAGE 02 BISSAU 00697 121121Z

NON-INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF INDEPEN-  
DENT COUNTRIES, MENDES MENTIONED THE RECENT PARIS  
CONFERENCE OF FRANCOPHONE AFRICAN STATES AND THE  
PROPOSAL TO CREATE A PAN-AFRICAN INTERVENTION  
FORCE. HE SAID QUOTE WE CAN SAY THAT OUR GOVERN-  
MENT IS NOT GOING TO GET INVOLVED, BECAUSE WE HAVE  
OTHER MATTERS TO DEAL WITH IN OUR COUNTRIES AT THIS

TIME. HOWEVER, WE ARE NOT OPPOSED TO THE CREATION OF THIS FORCE, ALTHOUGH WE ARE RESERVING THE RIGHT NOT TO PARTICIPATE IN ITS CREATION. WE BELIEVE THAT THE AFRICAN SCENE IS VERY DIFFERENT FROM TEN YEARS AGO. TODAY AFRICA IS TOTALLY FREE, ALL OF ITS COUNTRIES ARE INDEPENDENT AND INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED. THEREFORE, ANY AFRICAN COUNTRY MAY JOIN ANY OTHER TO CREATE A MILITARY FORCE TO DEAL WITH AGRESSION FROM ANY OUTSIDE POWER. THIS IS STRICTLY LEGAL, AND INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED AS THE RIGHT OF DEFENSE BELONGING TO EACH COUNTRY. UNQUOTE.

3. LATER IN HIS COMMENTS, MENDES SAID WITH RESPECT TO RECENT EVENTS IN ZAIRE, QUOTE THE PROBLEM OF SHABA IS AN INTERNAL ZAIRIAN QUESTION AND WE BELIEVE THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF ZAIRE CAN ASK HELP FROM ANYONE TO DEAL WITH ITS OWN INTERNAL PROBLEMS. WE ARE NOT GOING TO GET INVOLVED, ALTHOUGH WE BELIEVE THAT THIS GOVERNMENT SHOULD BE CAPABLE OF RESOLVING ITS OWN INTERNAL CONFLICT INSTEAD OF HAVING TO CALL ON HELP FROM OTHER COUNTRIES. HOWEVER, THE GOVERNMENT OF ZAIRE IS THE ONLY RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY FOR WHAT OCCURS WITHIN ITS OWN BORDERS. UNQUOTE

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PAGE 03 BISSAU 00697 121121Z

4. MENDES ALSO DISCUSSED OTHER INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS MATTERS SUCH AS RELATIONS WITH OTHER POLITICAL PARTIES, WESTERN SAHARA, NAMIBIA, THE AZORES AND MADEIRA, BUT ON THOSE SUBJECTS HE MERELY REITERATED PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT POSITIONS.

5. COMMENT: MENDES' STATEMENTS ON AFRICAN PEACE-KEEPING FORCE AND SHABA AFFAIR INTERESTING FOR NUMBER OF REASONS:

A) PERMANENT COMMISSION OF PAIGC IS HIGHEST BODY OF PARTY AND ITS SEVEN MEMBERS ALSO HOLD VERY HIGHEST POSITIONS IN GOGB AND GOCV; I.E. BOTH PRESIDENTS, BOTH PRIME MIISTERS, ONE FOREIGN AFFAIRS MINISTER, TWO MOST SENIOR ARMY CHIEFS, AND ONE MINISTER OF DEFENSE AND SECURITY. THEREFORE MENDES' STATEMENTS MAY BE TAKEN AS AUTHORITATIVE FOR BOTH GOVERNMENTS.

B) STATEMENTS DELIBERATELY PUBLISHED ON GOVERNMENT INSTRUCTIONS IN GOGB CONTROLLED NEWSPAPER "NO PINTCHA" WHICH IS NOTORIOUS FOR ITS ANTI-WESTERN ATTITUDE AND WHICH HAS RECENTLY BEEN SEVERELY

CRITICIZED BY PRESIDENT CABRAL FOR ITS FAILURE TO  
ACCURATELY REFLECT GOVERNMENT POSITIONS.

C) POSITIONS THEMSELVES EXPRESSED BY MENDES ON  
THESE TWO NEW SUBJECTS STRIKINGLY NEUTRAL AND  
INDEPENDENT FOR GOGB AND GOCV GIVEN THEIR CLOSE  
TIES TO ANGOLA AND PRESIDENT NETO, NOT TO  
MENTION WITH SOVIET UNION AND CUBA.  
MARKS

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## Message Attributes

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